



## Our Theater

-Afghanistan	-Kazakhstan	-Seychelles
-Bahrain	-Kenya	-Somalia
-Djibouti	-Kuwait	-Sudan
-Egypt	-Kyrgyzstan	-Syria
-Eritrea	-Lebanon	-Tajikistan
-Ethiopia	-Oman	-Turkmenistan
-Iran	-Pakistan	-U.A.E.
-Iraq	-Qatar	-Uzbekistan
-Jordan	-Saudi Arabia	-Yemen

Approximate overview of  
COMUSNAVCENT/  
COMFIFTHFLT  
Area of Responsibility



Headquarters  
U.S. Naval Forces  
Central Command/  
U.S. Fifth Fleet  
and  
Naval Support Activity,  
Bahrain

### Major Bodies of Water

Red Sea • Gulf of Aden • Arabian Gulf  
Gulf of Oman • Indian Ocean • Arabian Sea

*"People make it happen..."*

**W**e, the officers, Sailors, Marines and civilians assigned to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, an Echelon II command, and U.S. 5th Fleet, an Echelon III command, support all naval operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. From hometowns across America, we are deployed to one of the world's most vital and potentially volatile regions in the world. The men and women of COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT truly are the tip of the spear.



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## United States Naval Forces Central Command

## United States Fifth Fleet

*"On behalf of the  
Sailors and Marines  
of United States  
Naval Forces Central  
Command and United  
States 5th Fleet, I  
extend our best  
wishes."*



Vice Admiral Patrick M. Walsh  
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command  
Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet

Vice Admiral Walsh is Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, 5th Fleet. His team is the naval pillar of the joint team responsible for executing U.S. military operations within Central Command's theater of operations. The Commander reports directly to Commander, U.S. Central Command for operational matters and to Chief of Naval Operations for administrative matters.

The staff of COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT strives to ensure peace and stability, and protect America's vital interests in a 7.5 million square-mile region. Its usual configuration includes a Carrier Strike Group, Expeditionary Strike Group, and other ships and aircraft with approximately 20,000 Sailors and Marines and 3,000 support personnel. Whether launching combat aircraft, landing Marines ashore, firing missiles at targets hundreds of miles away, or completing a myriad of other military and humanitarian missions, COMUSNAVCENT/



COMFIFTHFLT remains the world's premier naval force and America's force of choice. This force can operate *forward from the sea*, carrying out its mission free of shore-based political encumbrance. Its Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen are highly trained, mobile, motivated, capable and ready to strike -- anywhere, anytime!



## The Command

United States Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) is the naval pillar of the joint team responsible for executing U.S. military operations within Central Command's theater of operations. COMUSNAVCENT reports directly to Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command (USCINCCENT) for operational matters and to the Chief of Naval Operations for administrative matters. As of July 1, 1995, NAVCENT assumed the duties and responsibilities as Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet.

## History

The first American warship visited the Gulf in 1879, when Commodore Robert W. Schufeldt sailed USS Ticonderoga through the Strait of Hormuz. Ticonderoga's visit to Muscat reassured American commercial interests in the region were secure, but did little to inspire diplomatic and military ties. Over the next 30 years, an industrial revolution and two world wars renewed international interest in the Middle East's vast oil reserves.

In 1949, the Navy established a regular presence in the region with the Persian Gulf Area Command which changed a few months later to the Middle East Force.

In 1950, the Navy leased office space from the British aboard their base, HMS Juffair. When the British granted Bahrain total independence in 1971, the U.S. Navy leased part of the former British base and named it Administrative Support Unit, Bahrain, changing it to ASU Southwest Asia in 1992 and to Naval Support Activity, Bahrain, in 1999 to reflect its broader support role to regional naval forces.

The U.S. 5th Fleet, dormant since the 1940's, re-emerged in 1995 to take command of the afloat units. Ships that rotationally deploy from the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets are operationally assigned to Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet.

Most recently, COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT's contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) were integral to the initial successes of U.S. and coalition forces in the opening weeks of the campaigns. Along with the insertion of ground forces in Afghanistan, the armada operating in the Arabian Gulf/North Arabian Sea doubled with two Aircraft Carrier Battle Groups and two Amphibious Ready Groups patrolling and providing staging grounds for air and land combat operations.



## The Mission

**STRATEGY** - We deter conflict by reassuring our allies our continued commitment to the region and by demonstrating our resolve to those who would threaten peace. Should deterrence fail, we are trained and prepared to fight. We endeavor to win any major regional conflict.

**MISSION** - We protect American lives abroad, promote national interests, maintain freedom of the seas, support the global war on terrorism, respond to contingencies and maintain security cooperation with allies and coalition partners.

**CHALLENGES** - We keep chokepoints open. With the capability to operate in the littoral, our naval forces physically clear mines and deter and respond to any attempt to hinder passage through the Strait of Hormuz, Suez Canal and Bab Al-Mandeb waterway.



We serve as a primary contingency force for national and transnational threats. As demonstrated in Operation Desert Fox, Operation Enduring Freedom and anti-terrorist strikes in Afghanistan, naval forces were called upon to meet national security objectives during a crisis.

During Operation Enduring Freedom, we assumed command and control of the ships operating in the North Arabian Sea and supported the coalition forces deployed to the region.

We continually supported Operation Southern Watch by enforcing the Southern No-Fly Zone over Iraq. Our carrier air wings provided 60% of the strike aircraft, 100% of the electronic combat aircraft and 50% of the coalition tactical reconnaissance aircraft.

We conduct Maritime Interception Operations in support of United Nations Resolution 1483 and Operation Iraqi Freedom. These operations prevent the flow of illegal oil and weapons into and out of Iraq.

We fully support our coalition partners through peacetime engagement. We engage in exercises and operations with our regional partners to demonstrate our commitment and friendship. Our commitment serves to increase the military capability of friendly nations, increase interoperability, and sustain our own readiness and training.

## The Force

**CARRIER STRIKE GROUP** - A 90,000-ton nuclear or conventional aircraft carrier forms the core of the Carrier Battle Group along with combat ships, submarines, and other support vessels. The carrier can launch combat aircraft day or night in any weather to quickly and decisively defeat any threat. Cruisers, destroyers and submarines provide defensive cover for the group. Combined, they pack a potent offensive capability. Many can launch Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM) at targets as much as 1,000 miles away with incredible accuracy.



**MIDDLE EAST FORCE** - Cruisers, destroyers and frigates deploy to the region, usually five at a time, to form the Middle East Force. These warships perform Maritime Interception Operations and participate in regional exercises as well as provide support during contingencies.

**EXPEDITIONARY STRIKE GROUP** - The ESG platform sports a highly mobile, self-sustaining force, capable of conducting expeditionary warfare operations to support a full range of theater contingencies. Those missions could range from humanitarian and disaster relief to combat operations. The addition of cruiser, destroyer and submarine assets make the ESG capable of deploying independently as well as part of a larger joint force.

**LOGISTICS** - Supplying a fleet of more than 20 ships 7,000 miles from the U.S. is a tremendous challenge. The main effort is coordinated by Commander, Task Force 53. The supply challenge includes moving people ashore and afloat, delivering parts, transferring fuel and ammunition, moving the mail, and supplying a fleet that feeds more than 15,000 people.

**MCM AND EOD Units** - Four forward-deployed ships, USS Ardent (MCM 12), USS Dextrous (MCM 13), USS Cardinal (MCM 60), and USS Raven (MCM 61) provide mine countermeasure capabilities to 5th Fleet. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units, a Fleet Anti-Terrorist and Security Team, along with other support units provide the elements that deter aggressive acts aimed at disrupting peace in the region.